

ELIZA AND CHARLOTTE BETTS

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Eliza Marie Betts

(1882 - 1978)

Miss Betts was born and raised on Maui where her parents had settled in the late 1870's. After attending the public elementary school and Miss Eva Smith's private school, she worked in the plantation store in Hamakuapoko and then the Paia Plantation Store until 1909 when she moved to Honolulu and began working at The Liberty House, then known as B. F. Ehlers and Company. She was employed there until her retirement in 1947.

In this interview, Miss Betts tells about her family, friends, and way of life on Maui and relates some anecdotes about incidents in her life.

Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

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Charlotte Melinda Betts

(1893 -)

Miss Betts was born in Kuau, Maui and attended elementary school in Hamakuapoko and in Wailuku. She then moved to Honolulu and attended the Territorial Normal School through high school and teachers' training school, graduating in 1913. She received a degree from the University of Hawaii in 1933.

Miss Betts's first teaching position was at Central Grammar School. She then became a supervising teacher at the normal school where she remained for many years before returning to elementary school teaching until her retirement in 1955.

This transcript contains her reminiscences about her parents and her own experiences.

Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH ELIZA AND CHARLOTTE BETTS

In their Manoa home, 2613 Halelana Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
August 6, 1971

E: Eliza Betts

C: Charlotte Betts

A: Kathy Allen, Interviewer

A: Now will you begin, please?

E: Eliza Marie Betts. Born April 1, 1882; Haiku, Maui. Today is August 6, 1971.

C: Charlotte Melinda Betts. Born Kuau, Maui; December 2, 1893.

A: Now first I'd like to ask Eliza what your occupation has been.

E: After I left school, I worked in the plantation store in Hamakuapoko [Maui] and after that went over to Paia plantation store [Maui]. That was in time about from the year 18-, I guess, '89 [she must mean 1899] to 1909. Then I came to Honolulu and started working in The Liberty House, May 1909, and retired in May 1947.

C: When you went there it wasn't The Liberty House.

E: Well, oh, Liberty House, when I first went, was B. F. Ehlers & Company. Later, after the first World War, it was changed to The Liberty House.

A: Very good. What school did you attend, Eliza?

E: On Maui, I went to the public school and later on Miss Smith had a little private school and I went there, which took us, I think, through just high school. On Maui.

A: What part of Maui?

E: Paia.

A: And would your education have been at the same place, Charlotte?

- C: No. Well, I went to the elementary school in Hamakuapoko. Then I moved down with my mother--lived with my brother--and I attended the Wailuku Elementary School, getting from Puunene to Wailuku on one of the little trains. Then after that, I came down to Honolulu and attended the Normal School through high school and Normal.
- A: When did you graduate from the Normal . . . ?
- C: And then I graduated from the Normal in 1913. But after that, to get my degree, I took classes at the University of Hawaii. And most of the time, afternoon classes but I did take one year of sabbatical and finished up in 1933, I guess, and got my degree then.
- E: Didn't you get time in Rochester?
- C: Well that is not--I mean, I was finished school then.
- A: Did you attend school in Rochester?
- C: No, no, no. I was an exchange teacher.
- A: Oh, you were an exchange teacher. We'll come to that later on. Or maybe we should do it right now. Where you have taught and what grades.
- C: Well, I taught at one of the elementary schools in Honolulu.
- A: Do you remember which one?
- C: It was called Central Grammer. And then I went to the [Territorial] Normal [School] and was a supervising teacher for a good many years, then went back to the elementary schools and taught until I retired in 1955-56.
- A: Where did you last teach?
- C: I taught at Lincoln School my last year.
- A: Which has changed it's name now hasn't it? Lincoln School is no longer called Lincoln School?
- C: Yes, it's Lincoln. Well, they have the new school up across from intermediate school or high school up here.
- A: Oh, I thought they had changed the name of Lincoln School.
- C: Well, the old Lincoln School.
- A: Next to Thomas Square? That stone building?

- C: Yeh. That used to be the high school, though. That used to be McKinley [High School].
- A: Oh really? I didn't know that.
- C: Well, during my time of teaching, they had this exchange of teachers from the mainland and different places and I had a chance to make an exchange to Rochester, New York for one year.
- A: What grade level did you teach?
- C: I taught from, well, from first up to the sixth.
- A: What approach to education was most prevalent at that time? Do you remember? Was there any particular approach to education that was . . . ?
- C: I think they tried this--what did they call it?--freedom of education where you were supposed to let the children think out things for themselves and do as they thought they should do. That was one of the big things then.
- A: Now, let's begin on your family history about how your--as far back as you can remember--the names of your great-grandparents, if you can remember them, on both sides; or your grandparents and how they came to the Islands and that story.
- E: Well, as far as I know, my father came to Maui and was working in Kahului.
- A: May I have your father's name?
- E: Charles Betts. And he was along with the group that were, I think, taking care of the harbor at that time because that was in, well, 1877 or 1878, whenever this was when he came. And he worked there and then later on he went to work in the plantation, when they started up in Haiku district. And my mother came with Mrs. L'Orange.
- A: Mrs. Christian L'Orange [wife of the agent for the Hawaiian Bureau of Immigration].
- E: They came by ship from Norway. I think they went to Bremen, Germany and then took the ship to New York, crossed by train to San Francisco, steamer to Honolulu.
- A: Do you remember what year that was approximately?
- E: My mother came here in 1877 so it must have been that year.

A: What was her name at that time?

E: Christiana Naess. N-A-E-S-E.

C: N-A-E-S-S. [This is correct].

A: Christiana. Which was also the name of the capital of Norway at that time, wasn't it? [Christiania was the former name of Oslo, Norway].

E: Christiana. And Christiana. Well, it's very. . . . [Discussion of the spelling of Naese or Naess. The second spelling was later confirmed]. And they stayed in Honolulu.

A: First of all, how did they happen to come here?

E: Well, Mr. L'Orange was here and he was getting the Norwegians to come to work on the plantations and then his wife was coming over to stay here with him and she went--well, before she left Norway, she wanted somebody to come to be her housekeeper and, I guess, the general work in the home. And my mother was selected and she came with her across the country. Then they stayed in Honolulu at the old Royal Hawaiian Hotel [probably called the Hawaiian Hotel at that time] which was where the Army and Navy [YMCA] building is in town. And it was all very new, the things they did and all. Then they went to Kauai. Mrs. L'Orange went to visit her brother, Mr. Hans Peter Faye. They stayed in Kauai for awhile and then came over to Maui and settled, first Paia and then they went over to "Lilikoi." That's the first part of that there. That was where they started the plantation. They were planting cane and my father came there to work and that's where he met my mother. And my father was from Massachusetts. ["Lilikoi" was Capt. L'Orange's 900 acre sugar plantation near Haiku].

A: What part of Massachusetts?

E: Lynn, Massachusetts. And they were married in 1881 on Maui. They lived there. He kept working with the--after the plantation, he went to work for the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company which is the Puunene plantation and he was sort of in charge of all the waterways, the big ditches that brought the water from way up in the country to the plantation. And we lived in Kailua, Maui for a few years, then my father died. We left there and came down to Paia and lived there. So, that was that part. Then after that, of course, I went to work after I was through school, went to work as I mentioned in the beginning. Came to Honolulu and worked here at Liberty House for quite a number of years.

A: What department were you in?

E: Well, I was in many. First the ribbon, then housewares, and notions and several of the--in that length of time, I was. One year, in 1919, after the first World War, Mr. Lindeman thought it would be nice of the different department heads to make the trip to New York with the buyers. And I went with Miss Scott who was one of the buyers for the ready-to-wear department.

A: When you first started working for the Liberty House, what was selling the best at that time, what was in the most demand, do you remember?

E: Let's see if I can remember. In our department, nothing too much that I can remember. I was in the hosiery, and we had gloves and all kinds of things but nothing . . .

A: I just wondered if there was any particular item at the time that . . .

E: No, not in our department, not in the department that I worked in, such as laces and embroideries and things like that. That was just an every-day-selling item. And in the other departments, hosiery and long kid gloves that they wore and things of that kind. Bathing suits and that kind of merchandise. It wasn't anything very special.

A: Now I'd like to go back to Maui and to your early days there. Now you have told about your parents coming here and can you remember the names of your grandparents now? Your mother's parents.

E: Oh, her mother's name was--what did they call her? The Bjoricks called her Tante. (To Charlotte) Do you remember what they called her? 'Course we never met her.

A: No, but you know frequently--now, I never met my grandparents but you know . . . just the names.

E: Yeh, but Sigrid and Katherine could--I mean, Katherine could tell you because they studied up and knew quite a bit through their mother. They really studied and learned Norwegian which, of course, I never did. And--I thought of her name. I'll think of it maybe in awhile.

A: Well, can you remember your grandparents on your father's side?

E: No, we don't know very much about him. I know that he had a brother, John, and the sisters Eliza, Miriam and Julia.

They were his sisters. And in writing to them, the letters were returned in those days so I guess they moved around and we never did get in touch with them. That's as far as I know about our grandparents.

C: Did you mention that Mama didn't speak any English. And she learned Hawaiian first. Because, she said, that most of the servants and the helpers around were Hawaiians. And so, they spoke to her in Hawaiian, she learned Hawaiian first; then she learned English.

E: But she said the reason she learned Hawaiian, because the sound of the words were very much like the Scandinavian.

C: Their vowels, of course, blended in, I guess. I don't know. But she used to have--she talked about this one Hawaiian friend. They used to go horseback riding here. And . . .

E: They had to go somewhere to get eggs and things like that on Kauai. So my mother had never been on a horse but the Hawaiians told her she could ride. So she got on this horse and away they went. But she fell off in the middle of a stream. I don't know if she had the eggs or not but anyway that was one of her funny things that happened. However, she got along very well with all the people over there and, of course when she came to Maui--I have an idea Mrs. L'Orange must have taught her some English because she could speak.

C: Well, did Mrs. L'Orange speak very much English?

E: I guess she did. She must have. I know when I saw her--'course she'd been here many years then. So there were many funny little things, I guess, happened to them when they first came here. Anyway, that's all about her. Then of course we were. . . .

A: All right. Would you tell a little bit about what life was like on Maui as you remember it in those early days?

E: Well, we went to school. We walked most of the time. Sometimes we managed to get a ride but we didn't often. It was all just horseback. And we had our church socials that we went to and we always got together that way. And one little group that I enjoyed very much was Laura Green had a group that used to come once a month up to her home. She lived up in Makawao. And it was the King's Daughters Club. And we would do different things and maybe we did--I don't know if we did any sewing--but anyway, before we left for home, she always served the most delicious lemonade and coffee. I mean, cookies. And of course Sigrid

and Katherine [Hannestad] were there too because they were very close to where Laura Green lived there on Makawao. And in that way, we were all together for a little gathering.

A: Yes. And Laura Green was a teacher, wasn't she?

E: I think Laura Green was a teacher, yes.

A: Yes, because I think she taught my mother and aunt.

E: I think that's where they got their English in the beginning. And whatever their mother taught them because I think she taught English too, I'm not too sure. But anyway.

A: My grandmother, you mean?

E: Yes.

A: She spoke Norwegian a lot but I guess she knew English. I don't know.

E: She did, because we could speak to her when we used to go to her. So, anyway, that was very pleasant. We used to have picnics on a Saturday and go up into the gulches and have a grand time.

C: Yeh, they always celebrated them, I know. I remember the Fourth of July picnics and we'd always go to a horse race of some kind.

E: Well, you did.

C: And everybody in the little community, or on the plantation because that's where we lived, we'd all go, you know, to the horse races. And everybody brought food and it was really a grand day. We always looked forward to it.

E: And I lived up country so I went to the picnics that they had on the Fourth of July. And it was just a wonderful day for the ones that went to that. Then we had our regular--there were dances and other little social things that we could all go to, so there was always something that was very pleasant and we enjoyed.

C: I know I enjoyed the trains, you know. The trains that hauled the cane to the mills.

E: Don't talk about that.

C: That's when I moved down to--my mother and I moved down to

live with my brother. And there was no way of going except trains, you know. They had a little train going to Kahului and then we'd go to Wailuku. But these big trains that hauled the cane, we used to just love to wait for them and if there was one or two of the engineers that would know us, they'd pick us up if we wanted to go way up into the camp to a store for maybe five cents worth of candy or something. But that was really--otherwise we'd walk, you know. But I enjoyed those trains. I thought they were good.

E: They were nice big trains if they had to haul the cane-cars to the mill.

A: Did you ever--they had flumes, I guess, didn't they, to move the cane?

C: Well, right there in . . .

E: Not in Puunene.

C: Not in Puunene. But I remember visiting friends down in Wailuku and we used to go back of her place to the flume and watch the cane pass. And hoping that a piece would fall over, you know, because we wanted the cane.

E: In Hamakuapoko they had the flumes too.

C: Well, I didn't remember the flumes there but I know in Wailuku we did.

A: Yes, because I don't know that they do that anymore. Do they use that method any longer to transport it? I doubt it.

C: I don't think so.

E: I don't know. They use those big trucks, you know.

C: Now they don't even have the trains.

A: Just for pleasure purposes really.

E: At Lahaina only.

A: Uh huh. That's all. Just as a . . .

E: I don't even think Kahuku had it either.

C: Well, Kahuku had it up to the very last time we were out there I think.

E: You mean the trains?

C: The trains. Or did they have trucks.

E: Oh, I've forgot now whether they did or not, it all took-- no they had trains. No, that's the pineapple trains that I'm thinking of. Well anyway, all through those years we always had something that was pleasant to go to and entertainments that we all liked.

A: Who were some of your friends on Maui that you socialized with, do you remember?

E: Well, there's the Flemings.

A: Agnes Fleming Baldwin?

E: Agnes Fleming. 'Course she's down at Pohai Nani now and it's very nice to have her down here. I think she, and then there was the Ingalls. There was Fanny Ingall and Walter. 'Course they're not here anymore, they're all gone.

C: Or the Carleys, 'cause you lived with them.

E: I lived with Mr. and Mrs. Carley. He was in charge of the telephone. And her brother Alfred was there and he was one of the young people that we went around with to the dances and all. And, oh, the Taylors.

C: Oh yes, I remember them because I used to play with them.

A: Which Taylors? I mean, what were their names?

C: Well, Sam Taylor. That was Mr. Taylor's name. And then their brothers and sisters. There was Alfred and Mabel and Myrtle and Ethel.

E: Sam. No, James and Joe and Ethel, Mabel, Myrtle. And we were together a great deal. And we still keep in touch.

C: That was the family I remember.

E: Joe and his wife live in Modesto, California but they haven't been coming the last two years. They're not too well so they can come. Ethel and Mabel on Maui. Myrtle is down here. So, you know, they're not too far away. I think they were the ones we were the closest to of the group.

C: Well, the Hansens, our neighbors.

E: Oh yeah, Puunene Hansens. Puunene neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hansen and their family.

A: Now, you mentioned a brother. Your brother's name was Arthur.

E: Arthur, yes. And he married and lived on Maui.

A: Whom did he marry?

E: He married Eva Scholtz.

A: And you say they're on . . .

E: No, they're both gone. Passed on. But their six children are still here.

A: Just one brother you had?

E: Yes.

A: Did you have other sisters?

E: Sister Julia. She passed away in 1961.

A: Was she married?

E: No.

A: Was she living down here?

E: Well, she lived a good many years in California. She lived in Santa Cruz with Ruby Mix.

A: Oh, that's right, I remember.

E: You remember? And you know, Ruby Mix has gone too. If you remember going to see her.

A: No, I don't think so.

E: Do you remember her? She said you came one time, I think, after that flood that they had down there?

A: Oh yes, [when I was a social worker in Santa Cruz].

E: She was a little shocked. She lived in a trailer.

A: Yes, I remember. She lived right next to the river, the San Lorenzo River.

C: And then they had to move and then they went up to where--

Opal Cliffs--and then Julia was there too and had a trailer.

- E: But poor Ruby--well, this is not for that--but she had a bad fall in June and broke her leg, her arm, and her shoulder. In the hospital. Had a massive heart attack and died. So. One of the very, very oldest friends. Her mother and my mother were single girls on Maui together. 'Cause she came from Norway to be with some of the families there and they were both married on Maui and that's how we have been very close friends for all these years.
- A: Let me ask you now. Do you remember some of the--well, you mentioned picnics and things of this sort and these socials--do you recall any particular customs that were common at the time? Do you know what I mean?
- E: What did we do? Don't know cause we all worked and I don't know.
- C: Customs. I don't know what that would involve.
- A: Well, for instance, now--as an example, say, the Norwegians celebrate Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day. Now that's a Norwegian custom, see, to celebrate Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day as most people, I suppose, do.
- E: Oh, I see what you mean. Oh, I don't know, seems to me we had the Christmas Eve parties and all that and, of course, your Christmas Day lunch.
- C: Well, I guess all the different nationalities had their kind of celebrations as they do now, you know.
- E: We know that the Portuguese had a big day that they used to go to the--all flock down to their main church in Wailuku. What did they call that now? Not Corpus Christi.
- A: Holy Ghost.
- E: Holy Ghost.
- C: Holy Ghost, yes. Now like the Portuguese would have that and maybe--well, the Hawaiians always celebrated by having their luaus, like they do today.
- E: And their 11th of June, you know.
- A: Kamehameha Day.
- E: But as a whole, I don't think we had any real special except

like the Fourth of July.

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- A: All right. What I was going to ask you now is, Eliza, when you left Maui and came down to Honolulu--now you had been born in Maui and until you came to Honolulu that was where you had remained.
- E: Yes.
- A: Now, what was your impression of Honolulu when you got here after being on the Island of Maui?
- E: Well, after living on plantations and an island that was all plantations, only little small towns, of course, I thought Honolulu was quite a big place. I enjoyed working in the store because it was--well, we had more of the--not only plantation people. And we had all the residents of Honolulu and I really did enjoy working all those years at the Liberty House. Some days were pretty hard but we always got through remodeling the store and lot of noise and when it was finished we were very glad.
- A: Who do you remember among your customers? Was there anyone in particular that you remember among your customers?
- E: Not especially. I liked all. A few were a little bit hard to wait on, but they were all mostly very very nice. I don't think there's any really special one, an outstanding one.
- A: When you were attending school or--Liliuokalani was still living at the time you were here too.
- E: Yes. Yes.
- A: Now, did you ever have occasion to serve her, wait on her?
- E: No, because if she came, she did not come in. Her companion would come in to shop. She may have come and was outside in her car. I think they were--I don't think they used automobiles so much then but she was in her carriage. She would drive up the old Fort Street and stop and they would come in and shop for her. I don't believe she ever came in as far as I know.
- A: And where did you live at the time?
- E: I came and I lived at the Kaiulani Home. Home for girls

and Mrs. Heapy was in charge of that. [Mrs. Susan Dorcas Heapy, 1857-1916]

A: Heapy? I want to be sure I spell the names correctly so do you remember how her name was spelled?

E: Oh, Charlotte, I've forgotten how Mrs. Heapy . . .

C: H-E-A-P-Y.

A: Where was that located?

E: It's down on King Street. It's still there. Just above the City Hall or above the Kawaiahao Church, on that side. [567 King Street]

C: It's right next door to the Old Mission Homes.

E: You know where the Old Mission Home is? Well, it's next door. I don't know who or what they use it for now but after they gave up having the students there that went to high school and Normal [School], I don't know--Kamehameha girls used it for awhile and after that I don't know what happened. But it's still there. And I stayed there until my mother came to Honolulu and then we got our own home.

A: This home here?

E: No. We lived on Young Street, Kewalo Street, while my mother was still living. Then we had a nice home in Lanikai. We sold that and bought this place. That was when Charlotte and I came back from our trip. [She phoned the following day to tell me that they were living in Lanikai when the 1946 tidal wave hit between six and seven a.m. and "water washed the yard" but didn't take the house. She described the wave as "higher than some of the houses." She never wanted to live there afterwards so they sold the home and moved to Manoa.]

A: Trip to where? .

E: Well, when I retired in '47, Charlotte took a year's leave and Julia was here too and she gave up her job at the Liberty House for the time being and we went to California. And we took a nice trip around to the different states and we even visited your mother and Sören [S. Edward Hannestad] in Harrisburg sometime on our way back. That was in '47. In March '48, Charlotte and I went to Norway and we were there from April to the end of July, I think it was. Then we came home.

A: 1948? That was the same year my mother and aunt went, I think.

- E: Yes, they went after we--and we wanted them to go when we went and I don't know why, I guess they weren't ready to go. And we kept talking about it and talking about it, and I said, "Well, why don't you arrange and come and go on that same ship as we are going?" But they put it off and it was not as nice when they went. They went too late in the year. Too cold. But you see, we came there the beginning of spring and oh, how beautiful it was and we had a very lovely time.
- A: Was that your first trip to Norway?
- E: No. I had been in--Julia and I were there in 1939. That's the year Charlotte went to Rochester, New York. And we met her--I mean, we went to Rochester, New York on our way home and spent from August to February there, so we had a little taste of the eastern snow and all that. It was very lovely. So--and, of course, our trip was very wonderful. We stayed with my mother's cousins there and we went to different places too.
- A: Do you recall where your mother was from in Norway?
- E: A little place out of Drammen. We didn't go there but they told us where it was. What did they call it, Haukesen? I never could pronounce it.
- C: But she always claimed Drammen as her province.
- E: But she always had Drammen because I think maybe her mother moved into Drammen.
- A: And your father came from what part?
- E: Lynn, Massachusetts.
- A: Oh, that's right. Excuse me.
- E: And that's all. He came here and that was all. We couldn't get in touch with any of his folks and after we were old enough, I was too late. Nobody knew anything about them. But he had a brother, John. That I know. And sister Eliza, Miriam, and Julia.
- A: Are there any stories or anecdotes that you can remember your parents telling you? And special stories that you can remember?
- E: No, not anything--I told about my mother over on Kauai and falling off in the little stream. And before she was married and her friend who was Mrs. Hudson--that was Ruby's mother--they used to go out into the little gulches over

on Maui up in Haiku and they would find the little red tomatoes grew wild and a few things like that. That's about only the little things that--I can't remember anything. And of course when we moved up to Kailua, it was just us. There was nobody around hardly. I had a very nice Hawaiian girl friend.

A: Do you remember her name?

E: Fanny Emsley. Her father was, I guess, a retired English captain and her mother was pure Hawaiian. And I was talking to her and I said, "You know, we're going to Hunalula." "Auwe," she said. "Honolulu!" she says to me. And ever since then, I have always said "Honolulu" because this little old lady told me I was wrong. And Fanny and I walked to school together and we played. That was my only companion until after we left there and went down where I went to school then and met other people. And then when we started school with Miss Smith, there was the Flemings and the Taylors.

A: What was Miss Smith's first name?

E: Eva. Her married name was Mrs. Borne.

C: And my first teachers in Hamakuapoko were Nellie Smith and Ethel Smith. They were all teachers. I think her mother was too. When she got over a heart attack, her mother was crippled.

A: Now, your little Hawaiian friend, Emsley. Is that EM-SLEY?

E: Uh huh. 'Course when we left up there, why, you know, that was the end of that. I think she went over to Hana, I'm not sure. I don't know what happened to Fanny.

A: Oh, I realize that. We lose contact with our . . .

E: Yes, after school, you just lose them.

A: Now, can you remember any other experiences of your own that stand out in your memory?

E: Some of the things while we were away?

C: I know that the only one thing that I remember on that trip. See, after we were in Norway for awhile, we took the tour through Europe. We were going to Switzerland and all those places. Well anyway, after we left Denmark, I think our first stop was that one little town in Germany, wasn't it?

- E: Just the beginning of Germany. I don't know what--no, no--Luxemburg. We were talking about Luxemburg but it wasn't Luxemburg.
- C: Well, it was somewhere there.
- E: No, no, because we were going through Luxemburg and we wanted to know if we were going to get through there.
- C: Well, we didn't get through, remember that?
- E: Luxemburg, we did but we didn't get . . .
- C: We had to stop and get off the train because they marked on our passports that we were going into Germany and I said, "Well, we weren't going to stop in Germany." We had no intention, no reason, to stop in Germany. "But you are going through that country."
- E: And they wouldn't let us go through. And we had to go back to Denmark.
- C: And they made us get off the train and go back to Denmark in order to get that pass through.
- E: A pass. A visa.
- C: So, of course--a visa through. So we lost one day and one or two days in Holland.
- E: We were kind of disappointed but the poppies were--I mean the tulips were all gone anyway.
- C: Well, no, they weren't ready yet.
- E: Well, anyway, that was one mean little thing.
- C: Oh, that was one mean little thing and no place to get anything to eat or anything. I thought that was kind of funny. I said, "Well, goodness me, nobody said anything about that, you know." When you go places and they don't tell you, why . . .
- E: Why didn't that person--he knew that we were going on. And we were going by train. Why didn't he say, "Well, you're going through Germany. You will have to have a visa for that"? Why didn't he say that? I should think he'd know that.
- A: Yes. Well, that's too bad.
- C: Another thing too, our passports. They didn't tell us in

San Francisco that we'd better check our vaccination, you know, because we had to be vaccinated again in Norway.

E: Otherwise they wouldn't let us go through.

C: They said we would be held up in New York on the island, on that Ellis Island.

E: So, we had to go to the--we got our cousin to tell us where to go and she told us what doctor to go and we went and we were both vaccinated. All we had to do was to show a certificate that we were vaccinated. Charlotte's was all right but mine, it never took. But we were vaccinated. So that was one of the little things that were a little bit annoying.

C: You wonder why they don't tell you these things. We had plenty of time in California.

E: No, all they thought of was getting you where you were going to go and they didn't think of these things. And I said to them. . . . Then Charlotte and I, we took the train up to a little place way up called Lillahammer (phonetic) and we were in a very nice hotel. Woke up and I heard all the birds asinging and everything and I said to her, "Good gracious, must be awfully late. Let's get up." Three o'clock in the morning. Daylight. The sun was shining, you know, middle of the summertime. And these little birds, my goodness how what a noise they made.

A: That would make a difference, though, having it get light that early.

C: Well, you know, that trip I took. I took a trip to the North Cape and that, you know, seeing what they call the midnight sun--of course it never goes down. It just stays.

E: About this much of the sun [she indicates about half] is above the horizon and then it begins to come up again.

C: But it just stays that way. It's kind of weird at first, you know, but it's wonderful.

A: It is. That would be.

E: But interesting.

A: Very. Something to really ponder, isn't it? May I see that booklet that you have? (Norwegian Labor in Hawaii--The Norse Immigrants which Arthur C. Betts helped to write)

E: I was going to say something. Oh, about the 17th of May

and all. We enjoyed that. Their Independence Day.

A: Whose Independence Day?

E: Norway's. Both from Denmark and Sweden, you see. Do you get the [National] Geographic?

A: No, I don't.

E: Oh, well, there's an article all about Norway in there. And they talked about how they went under Denmark for so long that in 1821 they were freed from Denmark but they weren't free from Sweden until 1902 or '03. And that's the 17th of May they celebrate. That was a wonderful day.

A: What special celebration is there on that day?

E: Oh, well, they have the marches and parades and then the afternoon is when the students cut up, you know. They have their funny little, odd floats and to take off somebody. One I can remember was the one with three old hens. That was to represent some teachers that they didn't like. You know, little things like that. But, the nice thing about that, after we'd had a very wonderful dinner--'course there, you know, their main meal is the middle of the day or three o'clock. Well, this day, the cousins came and said, "Tante, it's all settled." He says, "We will take the train," after a certain hour in the evening. We were going out to visit his wife's cousin--sister. We got on this train and we went up. We sat out in the yard 'til nearly midnight, it seemed to me. It was almost daylight on the 17th of May. And oh, if we didn't have the most wonderful time. That's one time when we got home at three o'clock in the morning, I tell you. But it was just wonderful.

A: It must be a beautiful month too there.

E: Well, from then on it was, you know. Everybody got ready and we even went up in the mountains with them for their holidays and it was really--I'd love to go again but then that's out of the question.

A: Well, I'm going to come back to the Islands again now from May Day in Norway. I notice here that Christian L'Orange was the agent for the Hawaiian Bureau of Immigration, Sandwich Islands.

E: Yes.

A: And this is very interesting.

E: Would you like to take it with you?

A: I would, very much so.

E: Well, you may. You take it and read it. I think you will find there a lot that maybe you have heard of at different times.

A: This is very interesting. I would like very much to and then I'll return it to you.

E: Yeh, well, that's all right. Sometime when you feel that you'd like to maybe have a little ride up into Manoa, why you come. Of course he went and worked you know, what happened to all the people that came here, you know, and what happened afterwards. You see, their contract was for three years [She is referring to the Norwegian immigrants who came to the Islands as laborers]. Oh, another thing. My mother had to be the interpreter for all these Norwegians that landed on Maui in 1881. You'll come to that--how they landed in Maalaea Bay and they got in, you know, the old ox carts and drawn by ox--maybe six or eight oxen. Well, they rode from there to Wailuku. Then, after they had gotten all checked in, I guess, then they all piled in this thing and got up to Hamakuapoko where they started from, and from there they went to Paia. And Hamakuapoko, I think, they were divided if I remember right, working at two plantations. Well, my mother was the only one that could speak a little, enough English, to know how to interpret. So she had to interpret for these people to the I guess, the managers and all that. And some went to Hamakuapoko and some went to Paia. And they had their little houses that they lived in and they had their stores but some of them were not very happy. Now my grandparents were not connected with--I don't know whether they came with them or came after or just how. I don't know when Mr. and Mrs. Harnestad came. [Waldemar and Laura Harnestad]

A: I believe they came in about 1882 or '83 and my mother was born on Maui. And she was born in 1884.

E: Yes, I know. The same year as my brother was born. That's how I knew their ages because . . .

A: So they came before. They were on their honeymoon, as I understand it.

E: Yes, that's right.

A: This was their honeymoon trip. But they stopped in San Francisco because my grandfather became ill. So they were delayed in San Francisco for awhile and I think he did some blacksmith work there before coming here.

- E: Yeh. Then they came to the Islands. I remember them talking about them coming and some of the Norwegians went to visit them and what not. And then when--then I knew of them when they lived in Makawao. I didn't know about them when they lived at Grove Ranch. And then the only time I knew Katherine and Sigrid [Hannestad] was when they went up to Makawao. That's when I met them really and at Sunday School or church. You know, country. And that's how we became friends and we kept up always in touch with one another.
- A: Yes, I remember.
- E: But, that part--and, some of those families are still here, those Norwegian families.
- A: Well, that's what I would imagine.
- C: But not too many, though. They didn't--I don't think that those Norwegian, what would you call them, laborers or whatever, immigrants or what. They didn't stay like the others--like the Chinese and the Japanese. They stayed here . . .
- E: They stayed on the island--I mean, the plantation.
- C: Whereas the Norwegian went home, except, of course, Papa stayed and the Christoffersens stayed.
- E: See, they wanted--the idea was to have these people come and that they would learn the work of the plantations and become overseers of the plantation. Well, some of them did. Mr. Christoffersen did. What about Mr. Andersen?
- C: Which Andersen?
- E: Arthur's father.
- C: I don't know what he did.
- E: What did he do down at Waianae? He was in something out in the fields. He was a head man there. And now, the Christiansens. Mr. Christiansen got up. He wasn't just an ordinary laborer. He was an overseer.
- C: Yeah. Well, some of them did stay . . .
- E: But after awhile they left the plantation. And Mr. Gulliksen, he wasn't a laborer, he was an overseer. So, you know, some of them came and did work up after they got the--well, got some idea of what the work was on the plantation.

- A: What was it that--you say that they didn't remain. You mean, then, that some of them worked other places?
- C: I think that, yes.
- E: Some of them came here to Honolulu.
- C: Some of them came to Honolulu and some of them went up to Seattle and Washington and even into Alaska.
- A: Oh yes.
- E: You know, that cold air.
- A: More like their own home. I see. That's interesting. After their three years was up, in other words.
- E: Yeh, lots of them wouldn't stay.
- C: Well, they claimed they weren't treated fairly . . .
- E: You know, the beginning of a plantation.
- C: But then I think that was true of all these laborers coming in.
- E: The beginning of anything. Then, you see, in--I don't know, when did the Japanese come? '82.
- A: '90. '95, I think. They were the last group to come, I think. [Actually, a group of 148 Japanese was brought here in 1868 "but complaints of ill-treatment and misunderstandings about the contracts caused their government to send over investigators who demanded the return of those who were dissatisfied at the expense of the Hawaiian government. . . . It was 17 years before the Japanese government allowed any more such groups to emigrate to Hawaii."]
- C: The Chinese came first. And then, I think the Filipinos were the last, weren't they?
- A: The Japanese came in 1885. [The largest group of 956 came then, according to Thrum's Hawaiian Almanac, Vol. 90, 1968.] February 9, 1885. Probably you're correct about the--1900, the Portuguese, Spanish, Koreans, and Puerto Ricans. And in 1907, the Japanese immigration stopped and Filipino immigrants came. So they were the last.
- E: They were the last but the Koreans came while I was still working in the Hamakuapoko store, somewhere between 1901 and 1904 the Koreans come. Here they came. Oh, those.

They were six foot or more and they wore kinda long black coats and high stove pipe hats, you know, way up there. And I was a little bit afraid of them because the plantation store, you had to wait on them. But we had a very good camp boss--Japanese--so he took over and here they jabbered and jabbered, of course in Korean. And they were great big men. I don't know, did they stay very long on the plantation? One evening, kind of late evening, I was coming home. I had been to visit somebody and I had ridden through the cane fields because it was short cut. And to get onto the main highway, I had to--I came to a great big gate and I had to get through that. And as I rode up, here was about four or five of these tall Koreans. "Well, my goodness, I'm going to get through there somehow but there they are." But they saw me coming and they very nicely opened the gate for me and I went through and I thanked them and away I went. And my fear was all for nothing, but then I was a little bit afraid of these great big men. They were strangers. I didn't know anything about them. But they weren't bothersome.

C: No, they weren't. I remember seeing them . . .

A: You said you were riding. Was that . . . ?

E: Horseback. Well, that's the only way we went anywhere on Maui, was to ride. We didn't have anything to drive in so we rode horseback. We all had our horses. We were going to a party, we'd carry our dress and when we got to the party--these little monthly entertainments that they used to have--well, we'd go to the dressing room, put our dress on, so it wouldn't look too wrinkled. So all those little things.

A: Eliza, the little things are interesting, you see.

C: What was it about that time, you said that--or was it you or somebody else--that went to one of these parties, these --what did they used to call them?

E: The Literary--no . . .

C: Well, anyhow, the wheel came off the carriage or something.

E: Oh, that was a dance. New Year's Eve dance. This is when I was staying with Mr. and Mrs. Carley and Alfred was there. He was one of the telephone operators then. We were going to this dance that was up a little ways, up above the church--Sunnyside. George Aiken. And oh, we'd had a grand time. And of course everything stopped at midnight. Coming home, the wheel of this little carriage that we were driving came off.

C: Break, isn't it called a break or a carriage?

E: No, it had a top--a surrey. And good thing we had a nice gentle horse because he stopped. And Alfred was driving but the wheel came off on my side and down we went. And Alfred says, "Well," he says, "we'll be all right if we get home if we don't meet the doctor." 'Cause he's always out at midnight and so forth. So, we thought, well--it was the bolt had come off, you see--so we thought if we walked up the road a little ways, maybe we'd find it. Weren't we crazy? How could we find the bolt on the dirt road. Well anyway . . .

C: And it was dark too. No lights.

E: Yeah, it was kinda. It was after midnight. Well, Alfred said, "The only way is, we'll just unhitch the horse and we'll drive him along"--you know, let him go on ahead of us--"and we walk." Well, here Alfred and I were walking. It was quite a long ways from where the thing happened down to where they lived. Lo and behold, we met the doctor. Then, of course, there was never an end to that, of how he met us and we were walking, and our wheel, and we left the little rig up there by the side of the road. And you know that when they fixed and oiled that carriage, they never screwed the bolts on. They were down on the floor of the--where the carriage was. They had never put them on.

C: They had forgotten them.

E: They had forgotten to bolt the wheels. Now we drove all the way up there all right, but coming home, we came down a grade there by the church, you know--Makawao, the Foreign Church--we got on kind of a hill and as we drove down, then I suppose by that time I think the wheel had kind of worn loose and it came off. But good thing we had a nice gentle horse 'cause, I don't know, we might have both been hurt because the horse was still hitched to the carriage and he could have run with that thing bouncing around, you know.

A: You had said earlier that it would be all right as long as you didn't run into the doctor. What did you mean by that?

E: Well, because he would make a big deal of this, you know. He would tease the life out of us, I guess. That was more the reason, I guess.

END OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

A: Yes. It's not expected to be in an organized form when

you're presenting it, although sometimes it has more form than we realize.

E: And when you get it together, get it together right, it really . . .

A: It does make a good story.

E: When my niece, Alexa, was finishing the university, she came to my mother and she said, "I have to have--to write a paper." And she really studied to be a social worker. So in that class they wanted a paper. So she went to my mother and she says, "Grandma, you tell me all you remember about the time you came here until now." And that was in 1933. Alexa graduated then. And I said to Alexa, "Couldn't you ever get that paper?" "Oh," she said, "I've asked but they never . . ."

C: She was in Dr. Lind's class. Professor Lind. [Dr. Andrew W. Lind, professor of sociology at the University of Hawaii] He got all that too, you know.

E: I guess he used that for something he needed. But you know, there we would have had a lot of things that she remembered. "Come on now, Grandma, didn't you--didn't they send back . . . ?" Well, Mama would remember and she would tell Alexa. I don't know how many pages Alexa had.

A: Too bad she didn't make a copy of it before she turned that paper in.

C: Oh, she must have made a copy.

E: Oh, she had her copy but I don't know what you do with those things. I guess she was so glad to get the thing written and turned in. But most of us would save what we had written. And I've often wished we had it because now Mama's not here anymore and it would have been . . .

C: I wonder if they do keep those things at the university library. Do those professors turn them in at all?

E: Like in Dr. Lind's class like at that time, 1933?

A: I know that they keep examinations for a certain period of time, like one year, and then they can, I guess, do whatever they wish with them. But they can not return them to the students until a year after. Now papers, they usually are returned to you after they are graded, you see. Papers.

E: But if he wanted to make use of it, he wouldn't return it.

- A: Oh, yes. And that, of course, many professors do. What they're doing is they are doing research at the same time that they are teaching and they gather information from the students right and left. I mean, I'm aware of that.
- O: Yeah, I know that too.
- A: Because, well, you just know it, that's all. But it's a shame you don't have that [Alexa's paper] because it would be valuable.
- E: And I don't know Dr. Lind well enough to go and say, "Here, I'll have that paper that Alexa turned in in 1933." He'd think I was crazy maybe.
- A: When did your mother pass away?
- E: '36. 1936. So she's been gone a long long time. But oh, there were many things that, I guess, she told Alexa about the time they first came here and all; when she first came. And she never left the islands. One time we were all set. Sister Julia was going to go with her and she was going back to Norway. And at the end she said, "I don't think that there'll be anybody there that I know." But her sister was still living and her cousins. We met them. But naw, I guess she thought, too long trip.
- A: Things would have been changed.
- E: Yes. But we were glad that we went and met this group because it was very wonderful. Glad that Julia, Charlotte, and I did go and meet them all. But there was--talking about the Koreans--one day--this was when I was working in the Paia Plantation Store--at the noon hour, 'cause I was all alone then, the others were at lunch. And this--they're all tall; they were six, nearly seven foot, I think--and this great big fella came in and he wanted something. And to me he said, "Zzuh Zzuh Zzuh no can inside." Well, I thought, "Zzuh Zzuh" must be mosquitoes. So I showed him the mosquito net. "Oh, no, no, no." And I showed him fine cheese cloth. I thought, well for a mosquito net, I'm sure he. . . . Then I thought maybe he wanted a screen to hang in the door so I took him over to where the hardware things were. "No, no, no." He made me come back with him. I came back with him. And he was tall enough to almost lean over the counter. He kept looking and looking and looking and by and by he pointed to something there. He wanted heavy unbleached cotton and he was going to make a curtain for around his bunk, so the mosquitoes couldn't get in. "Yeh, give me ten yards. One dollar."

- A: One dollar for ten yards. My word.
- E: Ten cents a yard. So there was my witness and I kept thinking, "Oh, can't I find what this man wants?" And I was all alone. It'd been different if the other boy was in the department with me. But he began to get kind of mad. At least I thought so. But I guess he wasn't. He was just annoyed that I didn't know what he wanted.
- A: Well, so it was frustrating probably for both of you, not being able to . . .
- E: I showed him all I thought was good for mosquito nets and he didn't like that.
- A: That wasn't what he wanted.
- E: No, he wanted something else; I thought, you'll smother in back of all this. Anyway, that was one little thing in my days up in the stores up on Maui.
- A: What kind of foods do you remember eating in those days?
- E: Oh, same as we do today.
- A: Same thing?
- C: Except the frozen and the TV's [TV dinners].
- A: I mean anything special that you used to have that is no longer available today or isn't often served.
- E: Well, you see, over on Maui in those days, you didn't have the things you have today. The things you got was what your folks cooked at home. Of course my mother's cooking was always very good, sometimes with some very nice Norwegian dishes.
- A: That's what I meant. What kind of things you ate.
- E: Well, she cooked almost the same things that Charlotte and I cook today, only we don't know how to fix some of the nice special dishes that she used to make. I've tried but they never taste. . . . Anyway, so there wasn't anything until, you know, when all the frozen things that Charlotte said come out. That's where the change today has come mostly.
- A: Well, I was really interested in the kinds of dishes that you did have. These special dishes you were referring to that you no longer can make. That's what I mean. What were they? What kinds of things were they?

- E: Well, my mother made some very special Norwegian puddings that were--it was mostly her desserts and things. And we had a very wonderful Norwegian cookbook but someone borrowed it and we never got it back, which, of course, I feel very bad about. But it never came back. Some Norwegians wanted to make real Norwegian fish balls--fish cakes.
- C: Well, you can buy them in the can that's almost as good as what you can make today now.
- E: No, no, this was down here after my mother passed away. This man came in and he said, "I think your mother had a Norwegian cookbook." And I said, "Oh, yes, a very fine cookbook." I said, "It's all written in the Old English. It's a very old, old book." "Oh, he said, "this person that wants to know how to make the fish--Norwegian fish cakes--he can read that," he said. All right. I let him have it. And then I asked him for it. "Well," he says "I asked that man but he don't seem to know what happened to it." Well, I never got the book back. 'Course I never could read it but maybe somebody that really can read Norwegian would be able to.
- A: Well, it was that kind of thing I was interested in, you see. In the kinds of things--the point being that those are things that maybe are no longer made. Certain dishes.
- C: Well now, didn't they--weren't the meats mostly salted?
- E: No, we got fresh meat. But when we lived in Kailua when my father was still living, we only had groceries delivered once in two months. So my mother would buy, you know, the regular little kits of salmon and mackerel and things like that. And then we would kill, once in awhile, a young heifer or a pig or something like that and those things were then salted so that she would have something. And then we had the chickens and, of course, we had all the eggs and we had our milk and then she saved the cream and we made our butter.
- A: In other words, all this was done by hand and all at home.
- E: All at home. And that's part of my early life that I remember.
- A: Well, this is what I want to hear about, you see.
- E: And we, 'course my brother and I, we had to help around. We did certain things at home. We had the house and wiping dishes and all. We didn't go scot free. We had things to do.

A: Lucky for you, really, that you had those responsibilities.

E: Well, I think it's too bad that they don't have a little more of that because it's worthwhile after you grow up. And then, Julia was the little baby. I used to take care of her, so. Julia was born 1890 and so after she was so I could carry her a little bit, well that was all right too. And so we all kept busy. We played too.

A: What kind of games did you play, do you remember?

E: Oh, by myself I used to skip rope and oh, Arthur and I-- there's only two of us, we couldn't play very well, you know, many things. After a big rain, we used to take a shingle and cut it and plant a little stick in the middle and it was a little ship. And we'd go out to this pond and I could play there 'cause if I got wet it was all right. And we'd sail that little thing there for awhile. That's about all. We didn't have--oh, and sometimes they'd give us an old deck of cards and we played building card houses. There wasn't too much that we could do. Once in awhile my mother would fix up a little picnic lunch and we'd go up into the woods somewhere, like for the 17th of May, and a few things like that. And then we had that nice place we used to go to and we picked our own coffee, the coffee beans, after they had fallen. We didn't pick the berries like they do now, 'cause we always waited until the pods had broken and the beans were down on the ground. And my brother and I and my mother would go pick coffee. Then we'd take it home and wash them and clean them and put them out on the mats to dry. And then we would pound them and shell them. I know one time we had a bag over a hundred pounds. My father took it down to the people in the office--in the company's. But we all had-- we had plenty of coffee, nice coffee. Then my mother decided that the little round beans were better than the flat ones, see. The little round ones. And Arthur and I had to go and pick them off the mats that were out drying, you know.

A: To get the better beans.

E: She claimed they were better. I don't know. But anyway, that was a job for us, I guess. She was smart. Gave us something to do. Well, anyway, those are little things that we did. But as for anything very big, there wasn't anything because we walked to school and when we came home it was kinda late and so we just stayed home. Didn't do too much, except those little things.

A: Except those little things that are so important.

E: So, that was our life, growing up there way up in Kailua, Maui.

A: Kailua; when you say "way up" where do you mean?

E: All the way almost to Hana. From Puunene or from Spreckelsville, we were just about, maybe around, lived about half way up. And from there on is where my father was working on the ditch trails, you know. They would come up--the men from Spreckelsville would come up, stay, and then my father and these men would go on up. They were surveyors, I guess, and they would go along with him up the ditch trail and find out where maybe they could put a tunnel or something to just get more water on down to the plantation ground. And that was their job. So that was how our life there was. It wasn't very exciting but it was all right for that time.

A: Well, I think when we come right down to it, our life is really a series of small events more than it is of large events.

E: Well just like now your grandparents. After they were at Grove Ranch, I guess, I don't know where they were [Haleakala Ranch, I think], then they moved way up to Kailiili. And there she was all by herself. There wasn't a soul around there. Just herself and Mr. Hannestad because Sigrid was down here at school; I don't know where Soren was--maybe he was--no, I don't know, maybe he was still young enough to be home, I don't know. But when you think of that, now they were all alone up there. But of course we were not because we were more in a place where there were other people, but no white people.

A: But they were all the way up at Kailiili, all alone up there, [probably because my grandfather, Waldemar Hannestad, was reforesting former koa forests in Kailiili with Pride of India and eucalyptus trees which are still there].

E: When I was at Paia, one day--one Sunday, I think it was--one of the ladies who worked in the store or the plantation office, we rode up to see her. We started early in the morning; it was a long ride. We went up there. She was so glad to have somebody come. Had a nice lunch with her, then Margaret and I--Maggie Mosser and I--rode home. So that was some of the things. You know, I was just referring to her. Now there's her life. She lived away up there all by herself. So that's how things were when we lived on Maui and down here, of course, it's been the general thing of working long hours through the long five years of the war and all that. Oh, it was a hard time. I was glad I was going to retire in a short time. It wasn't

very easy. People were mad because they couldn't get things. Not exactly mad but, I guess, more provoked because they couldn't get something. But we couldn't get the things because there were no ships coming in anymore. And our hours were--we had to get home before--see, they put our time ahead then, you know, so that we could get home before dark on account of the black out.

A: And once you were home you had to stay home because you couldn't go out at night.

E: And we had to be sure that our place was all blacked out.

A: How long have you been at this location here?

E: Here? We moved here--well, it's the end of '48. So it's from '49 up to now and that's over twenty years.

A: Yes. It's a delightful spot.

E: It's one of the nicest. We loved Lanikai but it was this business of driving back and forth. And I said to Charlotte, "It's got to be one thing. We're going to get a place in town." And I came in and I went to the real estate and I said, "I've got to find a place today." He says, "Come with me." We came up here. He said this is what we would like. So we arranged it and Charlotte came and said, "Oh, what a nice place." And she told me, "Don't you get any place up on the hill." She says, "I will not drive up any of those hills." So I told him, I said, "I want something flat. Couldn't find anything flatter than this. So this is how--oh, this is an ideal place. And you see, we're high enough up that we look out over the trees. It's just been so lovely here. I hate to leave. I don't know what we would do if we had to leave here.

C: Well, that's why we've been home instead of going off on a trip. I just hate to think of packing up and going. I said, "I'm too comfortable."

A: I can see why you would be.

E: And you know, things haven't been so nice away from here. There're all kinds of upsetting things happening, you don't know where it's going to happen.

C: Well, it happens here too but . . .

E: I know but we're at home. We're away from it a little way.

C: It's so quiet and peaceful in this neighborhood, you know. We're just so quiet.

- A: Yes, it's delightful. There's no need to leave it then.
- C: Well, we have the problem too; who would take care of it?
- E: We don't like to just close it up, although we did twice. Came home and everything was exactly the way we left it. We were away about two and a half, three months. It was all very nice to come back and find it. . . . But today, I don't know if it would work that way.
- A: Times have changed, certainly. I noticed the ginger. I smelled that when I first walked in. White ginger. So lovely.
- E: Well, there's a little corner that's kind of shaded where that grows.
- C: They're not as good, I think, this year. They do need shelter and they need water.
- E: And today, of course, I've enjoyed my retirement very very much. I was able to attend my different clubs that I have been a member of for over fifty years or more.
- A: What are some of these clubs?
- E: Well, the first one was the Pacific Rebecca Lodge. That I joined in 1909 and I still go but there was a time between that we didn't go. And there, you know, you'll always have little entertainments, dances and dinners and suppers and card parties. And then the Honolulu Business and Professional Women's Club. 'Course that's a very active--and I joined that in 1916 so, let's see, my membership has gone a long way over the fifty.
- C: Well, you're a charter member now. She's a charter member. There're only three of you that are charter members.
- E: Four. Davis, MacNeil, Todd and Betts.
- C: Well, I don't think of Davis because she doesn't come.
- E: Well, anyway, we have that and I've enjoyed that very much. And they meet, lodge meets, twice a month and the other meets, once a month. I know Sigrid and Katherine came to our card parties once or twice. I thought maybe they would join but they said, no, they didn't want to. The Rebeccas. So that's the things that we joined. And oh, you know, the other clubs that you have like the Daughters of Hawaii and the Republican Women's Organization. Charlotte belongs to that. The Lodge too. So you see, if we want to go, we've a lot to go to but sometimes you can't always go

to all of them.

C: And I belong to the Retired Teachers [Association].

E: So you see, we're not too sitting-in-the-rocking chair.

A: No, you aren't indeed at all.

C: No, we don't. We keep pretty active, I think.

A: I wanted to ask you about the Normal School. What was that Normal School . . . ?

C: You remember--well, now it's the Punchbowl Homes for retired persons. But it was that red brick building there on . . .

A: Yes, I remember it. I remember where it was. But can you tell a little bit about that school, what it was like?

C: Well, we went through the usual academic courses, I guess. And then, of course, the teacher training where, in those--well, I don't know if they do it now in Teachers' College--but where you would go and practice teaching in the elementary division of the school because they had that all in one there. First through eighth grade then. And you'd go and do your practice teaching under another--under a supervising teacher. So that went on, you see.

A: So they've always had practice teaching then.

C: They've always had practice teaching up to the time--well, even--I remember the Teachers' College here, they sent out some of the teachers that were training out into the schools. But I think they still do have their training.

A: Oh yes. Oh yes, there is.

E: Who was it said they were going to have cadets or something? That you talked to not too long ago and you said, "Oh, they're still doing that."

C: Well, they send the students out into classrooms to observe and sometimes they do the [teaching].

A: Observe-and-Participate, they call it.

C: Yes, participation really. But of course when I went, you just went and got your training and sometimes they sent you out to one of the schools that needed a teacher. Because I went to Kaahumanu School several times, you know. And I got some training there because I was out in a real school.

- A: In a real situation.
- C: Yes. So that was about it, I guess. And did the usual things. The usual studies, you know, all through.
- E: Then you had your reunions, once.
- C: Well, that's your class reunions. They have that in every school, I guess.
- A: There're several of them around--that class.
- C: Quite a few that graduated with me that are still here.
- A: Is there anything else about--now, I asked Eliza about her impressions of Honolulu when she came. What was it like when you came? How did it impress you when you came to Honolulu?
- C: Well, I suppose I thought, too, that it was kind of a big town, you know. City-like. Not being used to--let me see, did they--yeh, I guess they had buses in those times.
- E: They had the street car.
- C: Oh, they had the street car, yeh. So I guess I thought that was something, you know, different. And where we could go down into the town onto Fort Street anyway.
- E: And of course the Young Hotel was quite a place and some of the ice cream parlors that they had. That was something that we enjoyed very much.
- C: So all of that. And you'd get on the street car and go out to Waikiki.
- E: Well, the beach because we didn't have much of a beach on Maui. Of course, I think Lahaina has one now.
- C: So all of that was new and very exciting, I suppose, at that time.
- E: And some of the nice hotels. You see, the Moana Hotel was one. Not Halekulani, that came in later. Anyway, a few. What was that other one? Moana and then the . . .
- A: Royal? [Royal Hawaiian Hotel]
- E: No, at the beginning.
- C: The Royal was downtown.

- A: Yes, that's what . . .
- E: Yeh, but it wasn't very much of a hotel then. I think it was a rooming house for some of those elderly men, you remember, that used to play horseshoe out at the
Anyway. Seaside!
- C: Oh, the Seaside [Cottages in Waikiki].
- E: That was a small place, wasn't it? The cottages, I guess. I've forgotten. I didn't go out very often there. And oh well, that's about the end of it, I guess, that I can think of. And of course today, we're just enjoying our retirement. Unless there's something else you . . .
- A: Well, I'm just trying to see if there's anything else you remember.
- E: You? (to Charlotte)
- C: Not that I can think of right now.
- E: . . . make the circle, you know, and then come back. And there was no refreshments or anything like that in those days. We didn't do that so much. Only if it was a party. We would take them moonlight nights, a nice night [horseback rides, i. e.]. When I lived in Paia, we'd ride down through Spreckelsville which was not too far and then come up another road. Oh, we were gone two and a half, three hours, I guess. Just a group of us, maybe seven or eight.
- A: Out riding horseback. Moonlit horseback riding. Did you ever take one of those trips into the crater?
- E: No. We went up to the crater but we never took any other trip. Did you?
- C: No, I never went into the crater. I went to the top.
- E: My first trip was when we went--we left our horses, I think, at Olinda. We were going to walk up from there.

END OF SIDE 2/2ND TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

Genealogy:

Parents: Charles Betts m. Christiana Naess

Siblings: Arthur C. Betts m. Eva Scholtz (both deceased)
Julia (deceased)

Father's Siblings: John, Eliza, Miriam, Julia

Transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.